AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please make the following amendments to the claims:

1-85. (Cancelled)

86. (Currently Amended)   A computer-readable medium containing a program for use with a
computer for tracking innovation disclosures by an organization as part of a system for
managing protection and licensing of intellectual property assets, the program comprising
~~the steps of~~:

> receiving intellectual property asset protection data, wherein the intellectual
> > property asset protection data includes protection data corresponding to a
> > plurality of intellectual property assets, wherein each intellectual property
> > asset is defined and maintained as an asset by the existence of legally-
> > enforceable intellectual property protection rights pertaining to that
> > intellectual property asset, wherein the intellectual property asset
> > protection data further includes data associated with a plurality of
> > innovation disclosures, each innovation disclosure associated with one of a
> > plurality of innovators;

> determining participation data for each of a plurality of innovator classes; <u>and</u>

> storing the intellectual property asset protection data in an intellectual property
> > asset protection database including a plurality of intellectual property asset
> > protection data records~~;~~

> ~~providing information from at least one intellectual property asset protection data~~
> > ~~record in the intellectual property asset protection database corresponding~~
> > ~~to at least one intellectual property asset to an intellectual property~~
> > ~~utilization system; and~~

> ~~determining by the intellectual property utilization system how the intellectual~~
> > ~~property asset should be utilized based upon intellectual property licensing~~
> > ~~rights marketability data, wherein the determining includes generating an~~
> > ~~intellectual property licensing rights utilization decision for at least one~~
> > ~~intellectual property asset corresponding to the at least one intellectual~~

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property asset protection data record from the intellectual property asset protection database.

87. (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim 86, wherein the plurality of innovator classes includes the class of employees of the organization.

88. (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim 86, wherein the plurality of innovator classes includes the class of non-employees of the organization.

89. (Previously Presented)   The computer-readable medium of claim 86, wherein the plurality of innovator classes includes the class of contractors of the organization.

90. (Currently Amended)   The computer-readable medium of claim 86, further comprising the step of:

> storing innovator data, the data including at least one of an employee/contractor status and a management/non-management status.

91. (Currently Amended)   The computer-readable medium of claim 86, further comprising the step of:

> storing organization data associated with the innovator, the organization data related to the innovator and including at least one of affiliate organization, company, division, and business unit.

92. (Currently Amended)   An apparatus to track innovation disclosures by an organization as part of a system for managing protection and licensing of intellectual property assets, comprising:

> logic configured to receive intellectual property asset protection data, wherein the intellectual property asset protection data includes protection data corresponding to a plurality of intellectual property assets, wherein each intellectual property asset is defined and maintained as an asset by the existence of legally-enforceable intellectual property protection rights

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pertaining to that intellectual property asset, wherein the intellectual property asset protection data further includes data associated with a plurality of innovation disclosures, each innovation disclosure associated with one of a plurality of innovators;

logic configured to determine participation data for each of a plurality of innovator classes; and

logic configured to store the intellectual property asset protection data in an intellectual property asset protection database including a plurality of intellectual property asset protection data records;

~~logic configured to provide information from at least one intellectual property asset protection data record in the intellectual property asset protection database corresponding to at least one intellectual property asset to an intellectual property utilization system; and~~

~~logic configured to determine by the intellectual property utilization system how the intellectual property asset should be utilized based upon intellectual property licensing rights marketability data, including generating an intellectual property licensing rights utilization decision for at least one intellectual property asset corresponding to the at least one intellectual property asset protection data record from the intellectual property asset protection database.~~

93. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 92, wherein the plurality of innovator classes includes the class of employees of the organization.

94. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 92, wherein the plurality of innovator classes includes the class of non-employees of the organization.

95. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 92, wherein the plurality of innovator classes includes the class of contractors of the organization.

96. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 92, further comprising:

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logic configured to store innovator data, the data including at least one of an
employee/contractor status and a management/non-management status.

97. (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of claim 92, further comprising:
logic configured to store organization data associated with the innovator, the
organization data related to the innovator and including at least one of
affiliate organization, company, division, and business unit.

98. (Currently Amended)   A method for use with a computer for tracking innovation
disclosures by an organization as part of a system for managing protection and licensing
of intellectual property assets, comprising ~~the steps of~~:
receiving intellectual property asset protection data, wherein the intellectual
property asset protection data includes protection data corresponding to a
plurality of intellectual property assets, wherein each intellectual property
asset is defined and maintained as an asset by the existence of legally-
enforceable intellectual property protection rights pertaining to that
intellectual property asset, wherein the intellectual property asset
protection data further includes data associated with a plurality of
innovation disclosures, each innovation disclosure associated with one of a
plurality of innovators;
determining participation data for each of a plurality of innovator classes; <u>and</u>
storing the intellectual property asset protection data in an intellectual property
asset protection database including a plurality of intellectual property asset
protection data records~~;~~
~~providing information from at least one intellectual property asset protection data~~
~~record in the intellectual property asset protection database corresponding~~
~~to at least one intellectual property asset to an intellectual property~~
~~utilization system; and~~
~~determining by the intellectual property utilization system how the intellectual~~
~~property asset should be utilized based upon intellectual property licensing~~
~~rights marketability data, wherein the determining includes generating an~~

intellectual property licensing rights utilization decision for at least one intellectual property asset corresponding to the at least one intellectual property asset protection data record from the intellectual property asset protection database.

99. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 98, wherein the plurality of innovator classes includes the class of employees of the organization.

100. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 98, wherein the plurality of innovator classes includes the class of non-employees of the organization.

101. (Previously Presented)   The method of claim 98, wherein the plurality of innovator classes includes the class of contractors of the organization.

102. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 98, further comprising the step of:
        storing innovator data, the data including at least one of an employee/contractor status and a management/non-management status.

103. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 98, further comprising the step of:
        storing organization data associated with the innovator, the organization data related to the innovator and including at least one of affiliate organization, company, division, and business unit.

104 – 106. (Cancelled)

107. (Currently Amended)   The computer-readable medium of claim 86, the program further comprising the step of:
        determining participation data for each of a plurality of innovator classes, so that participation rates can be effectively tracked and managed.

108. (Previously Presented)   The apparatus of claim 92, where the logic configured to determine participation data for each of a plurality of innovator classes is further configured so that participation rates can be effectively tracked and managed.

109. (Currently Amended)   The method of claim 98, wherein the determining ~~step~~ is configured so that participation rates can be effectively tracked and managed.